



HEALTHCARE FOR ALL VIRGINIANS (HAV) is a broad-based coalition of health care providers, consumers, insurers, and businesses dedicated to creating and advocating for accessible and affordable quality healthcare for **ALL Virginians**. Over 60 Virginia organizations (list attached) support the HAV Coalition and its priorities:

- **Cover all Kids** – 167,000 Virginia children are uninsured. New federal funding and federal incentives are available to offer insurance to these children (and pregnant women) by simplifying administrative procedures and increasing eligibility.
- **Improve Coverage for Working Adults** – Virginia’s Medicaid coverage for working parents is ranked 44th nationally. Extremely poor parents (i.e. less than \$6,000/year for a family of 3) are ineligible for insurance.
- **Secure Adequate Payment for Providers** –Virginia’s reimbursement levels for most providers is already too low, and freezes / cuts will threaten access to care.

Given Virginia’s current fiscal crisis and the threat of additional reductions to the health care budget, the HAV Coalition urges the 2010 General Assembly to **“Hold the Line”**. As members of the money committees, you will be making very difficult choices this year. It is more important than ever for you to know that Virginia’s health safety net is extremely fragile. It cannot withstand cuts without very serious consequences for hundreds of thousands of Virginia’s most vulnerable citizens. **Losing ground is not an option in health care.**

In particular, we have grave concerns about the proposed cuts in provider reimbursement, especially where small incremental increases have just recently been enacted. We are concerned about other cuts that will restrict access to Medicaid community-based long term care services, mental health services, and other health safety net programs.

These cuts are harmful, counterproductive, and are likely to shift costs to other payors. We urge you to consider ways to avoid cuts to Virginia's health programs. The HAV Coalition stands ready to work with you and the new Administration to **protect and improve** the health system for **ALL** Virginians.

For more information, please see our website at: www.havcare.org